

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072998
ORIGIN EA-12

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P 212348Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, US, VM, YO

SUBJECT: HUMPHREY-HUNG EXPIONAGE CASE

REF: STATE 069620

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PEKING 352 DISCUSSED WITH YUGOSLAV
POLITICAL COUNSELOR MATIC MARCH 21:

BEGIN TEXT:

FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7285
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
SUBJECT: PRC OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC POLITICS

1. YUGOSLAV COLLEAGUE TELLS US THAT IN A CONVERSATION
FEBRUARY 22 WITH A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL HE
ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S REHABILITATION.
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MFA OFFICIAL (NOT NAMED) SAID THAT THE MATTER WAS STILL
UNDER DISCUSSION, AND THAT "SOME PEOPLE ARE OPPOSED" TO
TENG'S RETURN.

2. THE YUGOSLAV ALSO ASKED ABOUT "THE PROBLEM OF THE
RADICALS" -- PERSONS WHO IN THE PAST HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED
WITH POLICIES OF THE LEADERS NOW CALLED THE "GANG OF FOUR".

THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT IN SOME LOCALITIES SUCH PEOPLE WERE "STRONG" AND "UNIFIED".

3. THE YUGOSLAV DID NOT SEEK, AND THE MFA OFFICIAL DID NOT VOLUNTEER, FURTHER COMMENT ON EITHER QUESTION. CITING RECENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCES, THE MFA OFFICIAL STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LEADERSHIP IS GIVING PRIORITY AT PRESENT TO ECONOMIC CONCERNS AND PARTICULARLY TO RAISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

4. COMMENT: THE MFA OFFICIAL WAS PERHAPS IMPLYING THAT THE ABOVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, WHILE DIFFICULT, WERE NOT CONSIDERED ESPECIALLY URGENT. HOWEVER, THE EFFECT OF HIS SURPRISINGLY FORTHRIGHT COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS WAS TO UNDERLINE JUST HOW DIFFICULT THE LEADERSHIP IS FINDING THEM. END TEXT. VANCE

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